proposals of the sick fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings, including FCI and submit its recommendations.

(d) and (e) No winding up order has been served on Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. by BIFR.

Hearing on revival of Bengal Immunity before BIFR

2000. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether BIFR hearing on Bengal Immunity was held on 9th November, 2001 in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the stand taken by Government of India before BIFR, as promoter, on revival of the company;

(c) the direction given by the Bench in the hearing; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the directive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government is not willing to continue as the promoter of the company anymore.

(c) The minutes of the BIFR hearing have not been received as yet.

(d) Does not arise.

New Methods for Price fixation of UREA

†2001. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to use a new method for fixation of price of products of urea-producing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the new method;

(c) how the new method of price fixation is different from the old one; and

(d) whether it is a fact that this new method is being opposed by the producers; if so, the reasons therefor ?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Retention prices of urea units are being fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS). RPS provides for fixation of retention price of individual units on per tonne basis, after taking into account the normative capacity utilization level prescribed under the Scheme and a combination of norms and actuals in respect of the various cost elements and expenses. Pre-tax return on net-worth corresponding to post tax return of 12% is given as part of the retention price after covering various elements of cost. This scheme has been continued till 30-6-1997 and the Government is in the process of finalising the pricing policy for the period beyond 1-7-1997. Meanwhile subsidy is being paid to the units on *ad-hoc* basis on the principles of RPS Scheme.

Further, the Government is in the process of examination of recommendations of high Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee (April 1998) and Expenditure Reforms Commission (September 2000), views of State Governments/fertilizer industry/workers associations etc. to finalise a new pricing policy for urea.

Closure of Durgapur and Haldia plants of HFL

2002. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA :

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are considering the closure of Durgapur and Haldia Plants of Hindustan Fertilizers Limited;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of workers employed in these two plants, since when they are not being paid their wages and what steps are proposed to be taken to clear their wage arrears and other statutory dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) While a decision has already been taken by the Government to close/hive off the Haldia Fertilizer Project of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), the rehabilitation proposal of HFC including the Durgapur plant, based on unit wise